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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE: 25X1A

SUBJECT Extent of Opposition to Communists
by Non-Communist Cabinet Members

INFO. [REDACTED]

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DIST. 21 April 1947

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

PAGES 2

25X1X [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT

1. It is becoming more and more apparent that the National Socialist members of the Czechoslovak Cabinet either are not ready, or are not able, to take a strong stand against the Communist members. Petr Zenkl, Deputy Prime Minister and party chairman, is the only National Socialist in the Cabinet who consistently opposes Communist moves. On the other hand, Dr. Jaroslav Stransky, Minister for Education, frequently feels compelled to give way before Communist pressure. Dr. Hubert Rinka, Minister for Foreign Commerce, offers opposition only on matters that concern Czechoslovakia's foreign policy, and even then is careful not to antagonize the Communists; it appears that Rinka still considers himself a candidate for the post of Minister for Foreign Affairs and tempers his statements accordingly.

2. Among the Social Democratic members of the Cabinet, differences inside the party itself tend to occupy the foreground. Vaclav Majer, Minister for Food, frequently attacks Deputy Prime Minister Fierlinger, the party chairman, for failure to adhere to the decisions reached by the party's Executive Committee. On at least two occasions, Bohumil Lausman, Minister for Industry, has sided with Majer against Fierlinger.

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3. [REDACTED], the weakest representation in the Cabinet is undoubtedly that of the People's Party. Msgr. Sramek, Deputy Prime Minister and party chairman, never attends Cabinet meetings and Father Mala, his deputy, acts weakly, often allowing himself to be persuaded by the Communists to follow a course of action in opposition to the directives already given him by Sramek. Dr. Adolf Prochazka, Minister for Public Health, does his best to hold out against the Communists, but is considerably deterred by the sharp attacks made by the Communist Party on his personal life.

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Comment: Most of the Communist attacks have been directed against Helena Kozeluhova, Prochazka's wife, rather than against Prochazka himself. Kozeluhova was ousted from the People's Party in June 1946 for "urging the party to adopt a more conservative position...and working against the Left-center leadership of Msgr. Sramek and Msgr. Hala." Since that time Sramek has been trying to pull Prochazka from his Cabinet post and assign him to work with the UN.

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